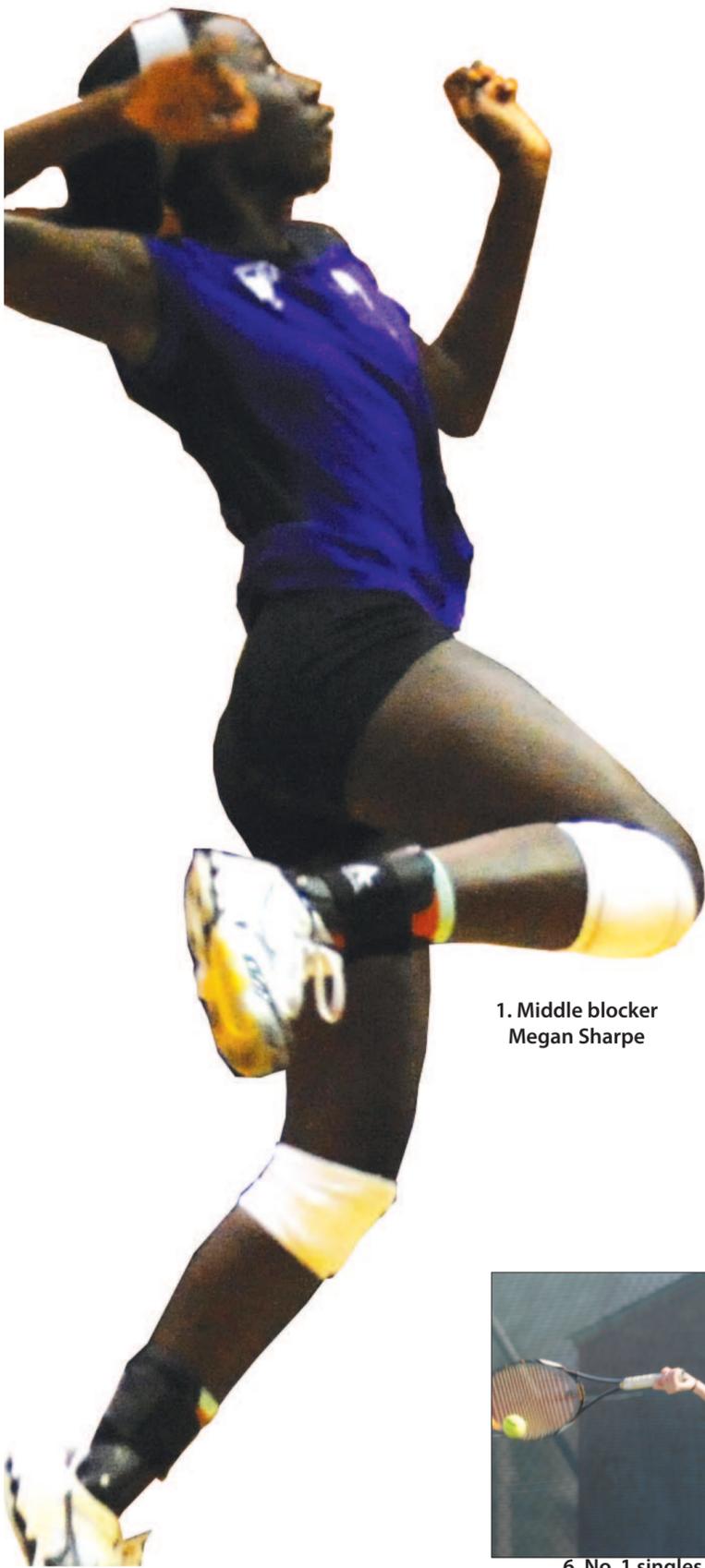


# 10 athletes to watch



1. Middle blocker  
Megan Sharpe

## Commentary



TYLER KILLEN

Well it's that time of year again. The weather is cooling — or it needs to in a hurry — leaves are changing and school is starting. But most importantly, fall sports teams are beginning to gear up for new seasons. Looking ahead, there are several players I want to watch in the upcoming season. In fact, I have a top 10 list of players to follow this fall.

10a. Anne Ratermann — She can run and run and run some more. Ratermann finished last year's national race in a time of 22:31. That's right, she ran that 6,000 meter race faster than I can walk from Centennial Hall to Barnett Hall. Anyway, Ratermann finished 67th at nationals. Impressive, given that the top 30 spots are All-Americans.

10b. Dani Dell'Orco — One runner didn't seem like enough, and Dell'Orco certainly deserves a spot on this list as well. She also ran at nationals and finished 86th. Danna Kelly finished in a similar position her junior year and then was an All-American her senior year. I could see the same thing happening to Dell'Orco, a year earlier.

9. Breanna Daniels — This may be stretching it, but basketball starts practicing in the fall, so it still counts. I remember seeing her come in as a freshman — she was good then, and she's only improved. As a sophomore last year she averaged 13.1 points per game. She will be the team leader this year, and I expect her to average 15 points a game.

8. Jonathan Brown — He led

the men's soccer team in points last year as a sophomore. The junior midfielder was named to the first-team Daktronics All-Region team and was third in Div. II in assists. The entire team should be a fun group to follow again this year.

7. Anton Bernard — The senior running back is set to take the top spot on the depth chart. He gained 260 yards last year on 82 carries, but stats don't really do his skills justice. He is just one of those players that needs to be seen in person. Bernard runs like a train: head down, full steam

3. Gregg Nesbitt — My list has already gone off course, so I'm not holding anything back. When it comes to football, Nesbitt is the guy I'm most excited to see. No, he won't be making any tackles — at least I hope he isn't — but he will have the biggest impact on the team. Last year the team finished with a 2-9 record. I don't expect Nesbitt to turn the ship completely around in one year. However, I do expect to see improvements. I think four or five wins is a reasonable goal for this year.

2. Olivia Hayes — She took the world by storm last



4. Center Vesko Filchev

ahead. I think I'm going to start calling him "The Conductor." All aboard.

6. Amy Ochs — She returns as the women's No. 2 tennis player. In her previous three years, she has an overall record of 64-18. Last year, Ochs was an All-MIAA honorable mention selection for the No. 1 spot in singles. I think Ochs will slide up the MIAA scale in her senior season.

5. Women's Swimming Team — It's hard to pick just one swimmer here. They do so well as a unit that I don't want to split them up. Perhaps the swimmer to point out is graduate Kate Aherne. Watching this team adjust to swimming without her will be the most interesting aspect this year. However, I believe they will step up and put together another solid season.

4. Vesko Filchev — He's easily one of my favorite players to watch. Many folks like the smooth, flashy players. They are OK, but I've also rooted for the lumbering big men. Filchev fits this mold beautifully. He's a hard-working, gritty player on the inside. Last year he averaged more than 11 points and nearly seven rebounds a game. It only takes a few game minutes to see why it's so easy to root for the big guy.

year as a freshman. Well maybe not the world, but definitely the Truman campus. During her first season Hayes led the team with 24 points, including 12 goals. I should mention that she did all of this while coming off the bench. That's right, she only started twice last year. Imagine what she could do when starting. I think an increase in goals sounds right for Hayes this season.

1. Megan Sharpe — Last year she was given the tough task of taking over for All-American Allie Cherven. She did not disappoint. As a freshman she hit .354 with 390 kills and 104 blocks. She was named the AVCA National Freshman of the Year as well as All-MIAA second team. She possesses a rare combination of speed and power at the middle blocker position. I almost feel sorry for the other team when I watch her play. She covers the whole net and then can rear back and knock an opponent's head off with a kill. She earns my top spot as most exciting player to watch in the upcoming season.

So there it is, a list of exciting players, teams and coaches to watch this season. I won't guarantee anything I said will come true, but this list should be a fun group to follow this fall.



6. No. 1 singles player Amy Ochs

## Like pictures?

Check out our staff photo slideshows at [www.trumanindex.com](http://www.trumanindex.com)

